

Dokdo

Introduction of Dokdo's Ecosystem

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, REPUBLIC OF KOREA



China

Korea

Japan

East Sea

Seoul

Jukbyeon

Pohang

Ulleungdo

130.3 km

87.4 km

Dokdo

216.8 km

Yellow Sea

Greetings

Dokdo is the first island greeting the rising sun in the East Sea of the Republic of Korea. Dokdo has superb natural ecosystems and is a habitat for wildlives that are difficult to be found on the land. In addition, its wonderful strange rocks and stones tell the mystery of the ancient time.

To systematically preserve Dokdo, a treasure of the East Sea, the government of Rep. of Korea designated Dokdo as Natural Monument No.336 (1982) and Special Island No.1 (2000). Besides, the government performs regular monitoring and intensive survey to understand the current status and the trend of the island's ecosystem.

Hopefully, you will enjoy the wonderful scenery and the natural ecosystem of Dokdo, a beautiful island of Rep. of Korea, in this photo album.

Thank you!

Dokdo, Republic of Korea

Location : Dongdo (East Island) 37° 14' 26.8" N 131° 52' 10.4" E
Seodo (West Island) 37° 14' 30.6" N 131° 51' 54.6" E

Area : 187,554m²
Dongdo 73,297m², Seodo 88,740m²,
Adjoining Insular Features 25,517m²

Height : Dongdo 98.6m, Seodo 168.5m
Distance between Dongdo and Seodo: 151m

Number of Adjoining Insular Features : 89

Location : 87.4km from Ulleungdo, Korea
157.5km from Oki Island, Japan

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Donggrimmun (Independent Arch) Rock

Natural Scenery in Dokdo

Dokdo is a volcanic island which was formed from volcanic rocks erupted about 2,000 meters below the surface of the sea during the period of time, beginning approximately 4.6 million years ago and lasting for 2.1 million years. Columnar joints on the surface of lava makes beautiful scenery with excellent caves and rock arches which have been eroded by waves.

The Ministry of Environment of Rep. of Korea, designated Dokdo as Special Island No.1 based on the 'Special Act on the Ecosystem Preservation of Island such as Dokdo', and has preserved and supervised the unique natural environment and scenery of Dokdo. In addition, the Ministry has monitored the ecosystem once a year and performed a intensive survey every five years to understand the changes in the ecosystem.



Ageo (Crocodile) Rock

Tafoni in the form of a crocodile with its mouth widely open, which is a massive tuff breccia eroded by wind.



Eulgul (Human Face) Rock

This cliff consists of volcanic tuff including porous lapilli, and looks like a side of a human face.



Korean Peninsula Rock

Looked up at the dock on the northeast coast of Dongdo, the shape of slope looks like the Korean Peninsula.



Panoramic view of Dongdo



Panoramic view of Seodo



Samhyeongje (Three Brothers) Cave Rock

This sea arch has been eroded by waves. The rock in the left is the Chotdae (Candleholder) Rock.



Chotdae (Candleholder) Rock

This sea stack is formed by a trachyte resisting erosive waves for a long time.



Sea Aster

Plants in Dokdo

Dokdo is characterized by steep slope areas and insufficient soil and water sources. Therefore, there are not so many species of plants in the island when compared with the land. According to the existing studies on the plants in Dokdo, there are 60 species of vascular plants in Dokdo.

The Ministry of Environment of Rep. of Korea performed a intensive survey on the ecosystem during 2005~2006 to confirm that vascular plants in Dokdo are 49 species in total.



Scenery with Stonecorps



Skyblue Broomrape

This plant is parasitic on the roots of mugworts in the seaside. It grows in the ridge area of Dongdo. Its light purple flower blooms in May and June.



Milkweed

This perennial herb whose stalk and leaf bleeds out white sap when it is cut. Its light purple flower in the shape of stars blooms in July and August. Its petals are rolled in backward and have soft and white hairs.



New Zealand Spinach

This perennial herb lives in group beside the seaside. Many of this plant can be seen in Dongdo and Seodo. Its flower blooms between spring and fall.



Spindle Tree

This tree grows in a half-shady seaside area and does not die even in winter. Its green flower with light yellow color blooms in June and July.



Sea Aster

This flower is a perennial herb growing in Ulleungdo and Dokdo, and its flowers and leaves are larger than asters living at the sea side of the southern sea of Korea. They grow in group on the cliff at the sea side of Dongdo and Seodo. It is the most representative flower in the fall of Dokdo.



Corydalis platycarpa (Maxim.) Makino

This flower grows in the sandy place near the sea, such as the southern coast, Jeju, Ulleungdo, and Dokdo in Korea. The stalk cut in the middle smells unpleasant. Its pouch-shaped yellow flower blooms in April and May.



Mauriti Loosetrife



Birds in Dokdo

In Dokdo standing lonely amidst the boundless ocean, a grand spectacle is beautiful birds flying around freely among white clouds.

In the past, we witnessed 81 species of birds living in Dokdo, but an intensive survey on the ecosystem found out additional 26 species. Therefore, 107 species of birds are living in Dokdo.

Notably, we can observe Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) which is Critically Endangered Species, and Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*), Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*), Crested Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus wumizusume*) and Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*) which are Endangered Species.

In particular, Black-tailed Gulls, whose song has been chosen as one of “Best Beautiful 100 sound” by the Ministry of Environment, are in colony in Dongdo and Seodo.



Mating of Black-tailed Gulls



Eggs of Black-tailed Gull

Black-tailed Gulls lay 1~3 eggs in a nest. Normally most nests have two eggs.



Mother and Young of Black-tailed Gull

A young gull picks the red speck in the end of a mother gull's beak, which signifies the youngster is hungry. The mother gull sensing it vomits half-digested food.



Siskin

In the summer, Siskins breed in Siberia, and in the fall they visit Korea and stay in the winter. And then they return to their breeding place in the spring.



Hoopoe

Hoopoes visit Korea and breed in the spring, and return to Thai or Vietnam in the fall where they stay during the winter.



Yellow-throated Bunting

Yellow-throated Buntings are resident in Korea and are observed in the bush at the edge of a forest.



Courtship of Black-tailed Gulls



Aquatic Lives of Dokdo

Various aquatic wildlives live around Dokdo located in the point where the cold current meets with the warm.

There are a total of 104 species of fishes, and most of them are many cuttlefishes, opaleyes, and rockfishes.

368 species of invertebrates and 160 species of seaweeds have been identified.

A sea lion, many of which inhabited around Dokdo in the past, has been exterminated due to mass catch in the Japanese Imperialism Age. Currently, the survey for the restoration of them is in progress with the support of the Ministry of Environment.



Cocktail Wrasse

This fish lives in sunken rock areas where seaweeds grow well. Male and female fish have different color and shape each other.



Stony Coral

These are distributed across the Korean Peninsula except Jeju. These corals are in colonies of many individuals around Dokdo where the depth of the sea is 5-20m.



Hermit Crab

This crab is one of arthropods belong to Crustacea. The body color is vivid red with brindled pink band on walking leg and eye stalk.



Spiny Turban Shell

Gastropod mollusk of pyramid in shape with two rows of tubular spines along the body whorl. Attach to the rock or seaweed in depth of 20m.



Hard Shelled Mussel

Bivalve shell with dark brown in color. Curved apex is located anterior end. Inside of the shell is pearly grey with gloss. Usually shell surface covered with seaweeds or barnacles.



Sea Slug

Opisthobranch mollusk of blue-colored body with yellow lines on dorsal surface and mantle edge.



Blenny

The body is slender and long, and has black and yellow striped patterns with yellowish brown background. Blenny lives in the sunken rock area with much seaweeds, and likes to hide in the crevice.



Soft Coral

Soft corals can be seen easily around Dokdo. The body forms a mass in shape of finger, the polyp is light straw yellow in color.



Sea Fan

These can be seen commonly around Dokdo, and have limbs in the shape of trees or folding fans. They get together into a colony of corals, and live fixed on the underwater rocks.



Facilities in Dokdo

There are minimum facilities necessary for the residents and the Dokdo Guards.

There are a berthing facility, a completion monument, guard posts, a barrack and a mailbox in Dongdo.
And there are a water trough and the lodging for fishermen in Seodo.



Berthing Facility



Lodging for Fishermen



Water Trough



Light House



Landmark of R.O.K.



Mailbox



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